

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claims 5 and 6 and to recite language that more clearly distinguishes the presently claimed invention from the prior art. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and page 4 in the specification. Claims 5 and 6 are canceled. Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are amended to recite claim language conforming to common U.S. practice. No new matter is added.

The specification is amended to include recommended headings and subheadings and to include cross-reference to related applications. The specification is also amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to over several formalities. Numeral 48, referred to on page 6 of the specification, did not appear in the drawings; an extraneous arrowhead was included in FIG. 4; and FIG. 13 was lacking an indication that it depicts prior art.

In response to the objections to the drawings, Applicant submits replacement sheets of drawings for FIGs. 4, 11, and 13. FIG. 4 is amended to provide numeral 19 in association with the previously extraneous arrowhead. Support for this amendment may be found in FIG. 5. FIG. 11 is amended to replace numeral 49 with numeral 48. Support for this amendment may be found in the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 in the specification. The specification is amended to remove reference to numeral 49, which is not shown in the drawings. FIG. 13 is amended to include a legend indicating that the figure depicts prior art. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the drawings and the specification, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 4, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oster (US 2,253,195). The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered.

Claim 1, as amended, includes the limitations of claims 5 and 6, which are not rejected as being anticipated by Oster. In view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 2, 3, and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oster (US 2,253,195). The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claims 5 and 6 and to recite language that more clearly distinguishes the presently claimed invention from the prior art. As amended, claim 1 recites a cutting head in which upper and lower blades are fixed relative to one another and a cutting blade oscillates between them. A hair length cut adjuster moves the cutting blade relative to the fixed upper and lower blades to adjust the length of the cut hair. This relative adjusting motion is in a direction that is in the same plane as, and perpendicular to, the oscillating motion of the cutting blade.

The cutting head taught by Oster also has two fixed blades with a cutting blade between oscillating them. Oster does not, however, teach a cutting head in which the oscillating blade can be moved relative to the fixed blades to adjust the cutting length of the hair. There is no hint in Oster that the cutting blade can move relative to the stationary blades in any way other than their relative oscillatory motion that cuts hair.

In view of the amendment to claim 1 and the foregoing arguments, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable over Oster and respectfully requests that the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

/Michael J. Striker/

Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27233
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743
631-549-4700